

[APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR ELECTRONIC FUSE WITH IMPROVED ESD TOLERANCE]

Abstract

Tolerance to ESD is increased in an electronic fuse by providing at least one non-conductive region adjacent to a conductive region on the surface of an insulator. Such an arrangement reduces the thermal stresses imposed on the insulator in high current applications. Where multiple conductive and adjacent non-conductive regions are disposed on an insulator, the fuse can fail in discrete steps, thus providing a well defined and easily detected transition to a blown state, as well as providing a stepwise increase in resistance between prescribed resistance values.